

## **Talbot County Economic Development Commission Meeting Minutes for Thursday, March 3, 2011**

**Members Present:** Walter R. Chase (Vice Chairman), Paige Bethke, Councilman Corey W. Pack, Paul Makosky, Geoff Oxnam, Leonard Wendowski, Mark Ensor, Ron Frampton, Michael W. Brady

**Attendee:** Doris Mason, Division of Workforce Development

**Press:** Carolyn Swift

**Guest Presenter:** Daryl D. Dixon, White Oak Group CEO

**Call to Order:** The March 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Talbot County Economic Development Commission was called to order by Vice Chairman Walter Chase in John General's absence.

**Guest Speaker:** Daryl D. Dixon, Chief Executive Officer of White Oak Group ([www.whiteoak-group.com](http://www.whiteoak-group.com)) was introduced. He presented information on his company which is a defense contractor who fabricates modular skiff space for government, embassies and private users. He began as a small consulting firm in 2007 and in 2010 in Easton and now reports 36 employees and \$10 Million dollars in sales. He extended a big thank you to Talbot Bank for getting the funding he needed to start in Easton. His company is expanding and would like to stay in Talbot County.

**Minutes:** Minutes from the February 3, 2011 meeting were reviewed, corrected to reflect Mark Ensor had been present, then declared accurate and approved. The Minutes will be posted to the Talbot County Economic Development web site.

**Correspondence to the Commission:** A letter of resignation from Ronald Frampton was regretfully accepted. He will be retiring effective June 2011. His service to the Commission was gratefully acknowledged.

**Old Business:** Economic Development Bylaws revisions to County Council are pending the development of a Resolution and will not be reviewed on March 22, 2011. The next ED Commission Work session meeting is also Tuesday, March 22, 2011 at 6 P.M.

**New Business:** Dr. Viniar sent ED Commission members a copy of her Presentation for the Chesapeake College Allied Health and Athletic Building. The project has one time funding available for the state that covers a large portion of the expense but requires additional funds in the amount of approximately \$2Million from each county. She has asked the Commission for a letter of support for Talbot County's share of the project pending the budget review process. A decision will be made in May on the viability of the funding to move the project forward. A motion was made, seconded and approved to table this item until Talbot County Council reviews the project.

**ED Commission Sub Committee Activity:** A Land Use (Industrial/Commercial Property Inventory) Presentation was made by Paul Makosky which included a handout and report of the newly created subcommittees proposed scope of work. He asked for volunteers to serve on the subcommittee and will be including members from the community. Mr. Wendowski and Mr. Chase stated they would participate. The County Comprehensive Plan is due for revision this year.

**Marketing:** The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Business Appreciation Breakfast date will be May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Location decision will be made soon.

**Chairman's Report:** Chairman not in attendance. Vice Chairman thanked Mr. Frampton for his service to the Commission noting they are sorry to see him go.

**Director's Report:** Council has asked Director to help businesses with the planning and zoning process and the permitting process in these tough economic times. Current projects are the Ag Center and Koon's (both in Talbot County). Director is working on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Business Appreciation Breakfast with the Marketing subcommittee which consists of Doris Mason and Len Wendowski and the Land Use Subcommittee. Follow up with current visits include Allen Family foods, L3, Alpena Pharma Solutions, Inquiries and EastCor Engineering.

**Member Activity Reports:** **Trappe** reported a new business, Abox (on site storage) and a new restaurant, Kay's which will be open from 8 AM to 8 PM. Announcement of Joe Ross leaving as CEO of Shore Health System and acknowledging the accomplishment in his tenure. **Maryland Dept. of Labor License and Regulation** reports 20% increase to Once Stop location (5,200 visitors) a 9.2 increase includes employers as well as job seekers. Talbot County has fared well with reported unemployment and not has had many job seekers as other Eastern Shore counties. Jeff Trice has been hired by the DLLR Office to support strategic projects. **Easton Utilities** announced system upgrades for internet and cable are in the works. More details will be forthcoming. They are working with the Junior Achievement Eastern Shore Chapter who had space offered to them in the former CADMUS building. **Town of Easton** reports Olive Garden and Tractor Supply are on track for development on the Route 50 corridor. There is a potential for more restaurants with applications pending with Planning and Zoning for a Chipotle and Golden Coral Steak house, also to be located on Route 50. **Tilghman** reports a cell tower of greater height is being considered with instant opposition for the Tilghman Island area. **St. Michaels** first curb side recycling program has begun. Advertisers will be used to pay for one third of the program by placing their ads on the boxes. The Hearts program donated \$5,200 to the food bank. The Shamrock program funds will toward building low and moderate (38 unit) apartments.

**Next meeting will be held on April 7<sup>th</sup> at 215 Bay Street Offices, Conference Room One**  
**The meeting adjourned at 9:10 AM**